

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. 4657

### 1. Name

Historic 1803-1807 North Bethel Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1803-1807 North Bethel Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

**Category**

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

**Ownership**

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

**Public Acquisition**

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☐ not applicable

**Status**

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress

**Accessible**

☒ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

**Present Use**

☐ agriculture  
☐ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military

☐ museum  
☐ park  
☒ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of three (originally four) two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Queen Anne-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and stepped brick cornices were built in 1896 by Steptoe Hutt, a prolific builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. All of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted. Since the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal and stepped-back bricks became the predominant materials used. This decorative brickwork, as well as the paired first floor windows, represent vernacular translations of high-style Queen Anne designs first seen in Baltimore c. 1880.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide, and occupy lots 60' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and were painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a continuous sheet metal and stepped brick cornice composed of a sheet metal crown molding set above a frieze created by two rows of stretchers followed by three more rows of progressively recessed stretchers articulated by four rows of progressively recessed headers.

The door and window openings had segmentally arched brick lintels and wood sills, though the latter were replaced by brick when the facades were resurfaced. The wide first floor window is created by pairing narrow 1/1 sash separated by a wide molding strip. Likewise, the basement window has paired sash set beneath a segmental arch composed of two rows of headers. Second floor sash were originally 2/2, but few examples remain. The doorways have single-light transoms and show a variety of replacement door types. The original doors may have resembled a survivor on the west side of the 1800 block of Bethel St.(at 1828)—a six light upper section set above two long vertical panels. The houses sit on fairly low basements. Each front door (no original doors remain) is reached by three or four concrete steps.

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

**Specific dates** 1896

**Builder/Architect** Steptoe Hutt

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by Steptoe Hutt, a fairly prolific Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders like Hutt acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks.

In this particular case Hutt built ten two-story, three-bay wide houses on the north side of Lafayette Street which he sold for \$1600 (with a \$46.50 ground rent), four two-story 13'8"-wide houses on the east side of Bond, which sold for \$1,450 (with a \$44 ground rent), as well as all of the houses on Bethel St. and Eareckson Place. These houses on the east side of Bethel sold for \$700 (with a \$36 ground rent) in 1896. Whereas the main street houses sold mainly to owner-occupants, the Bethel St. and Eareckson Places houses sold to a mix of owner-occupants and investors.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date June 2000

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



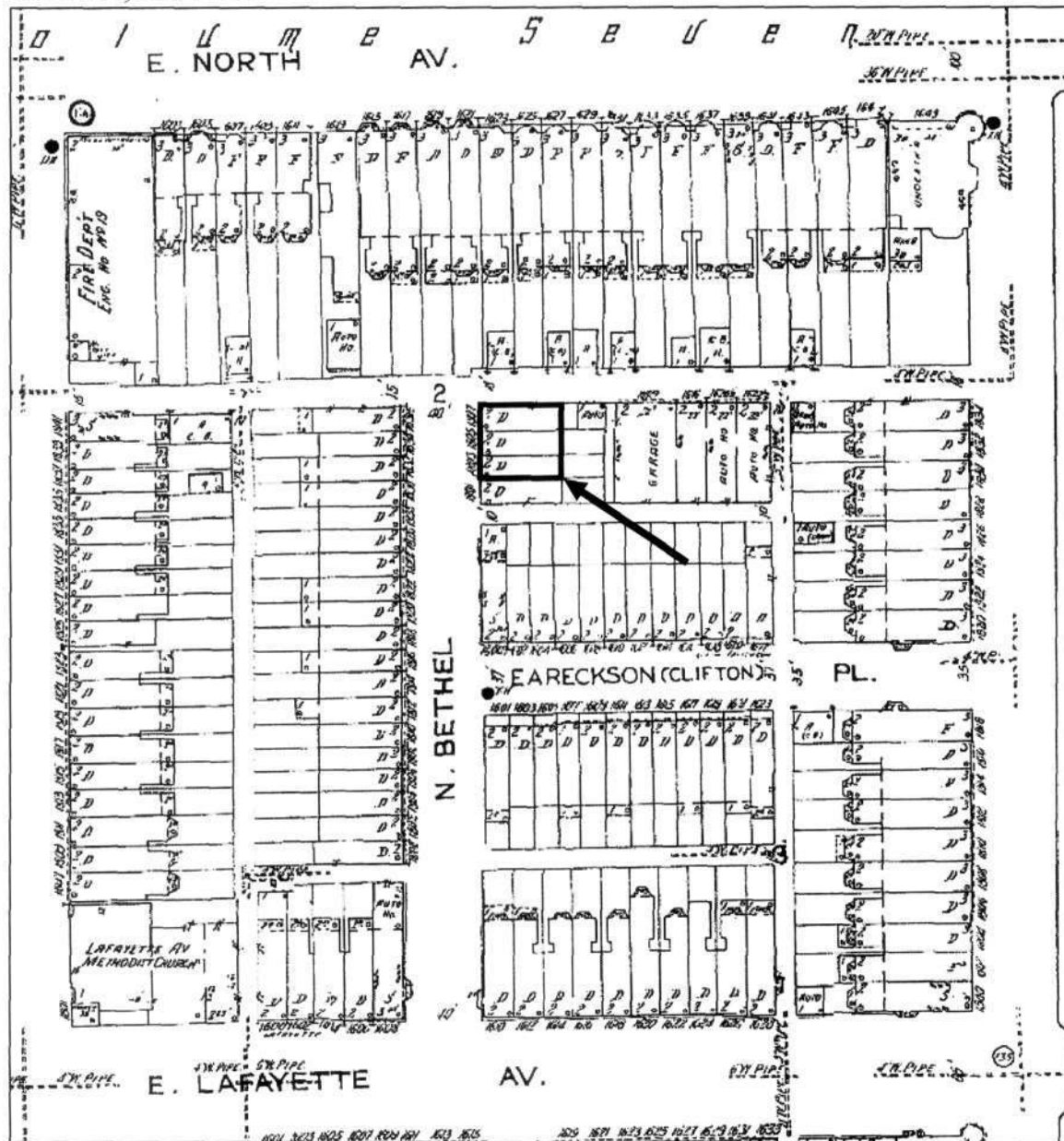


B-4657

1803-1807 N. Bethel Street

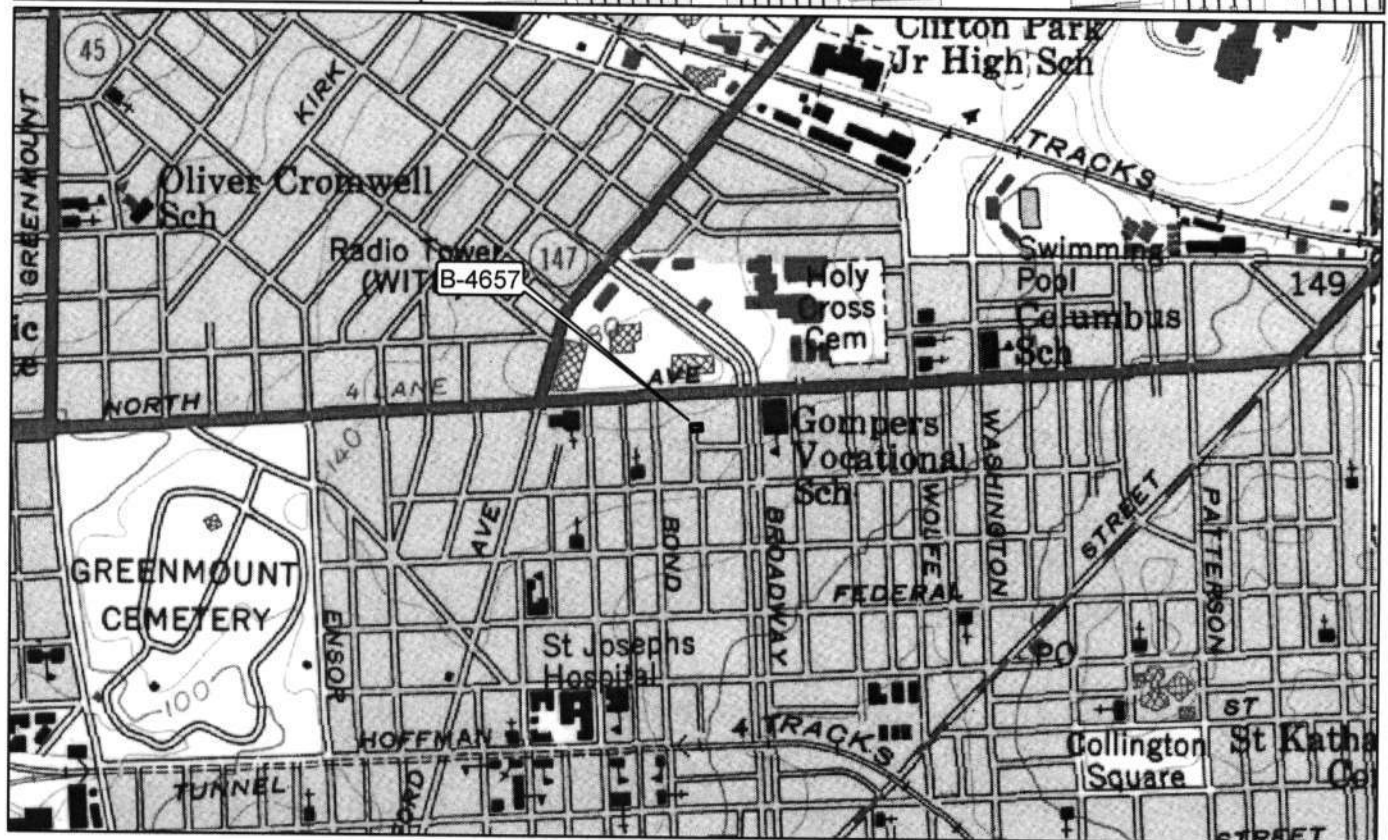
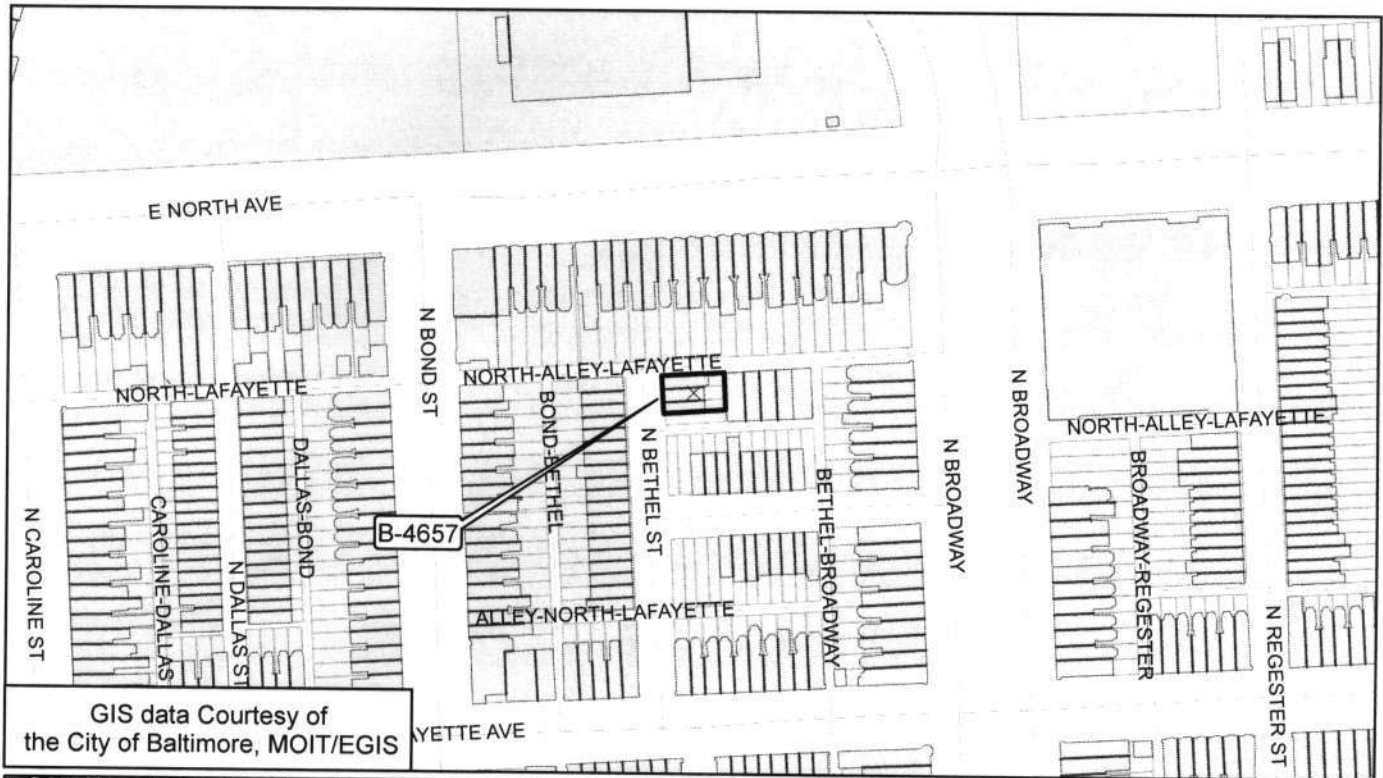
Sanborn Map 1914, Reprinted 1953

Volume 3, Sheet 309



B-4657  
1803-1807 N. Bethel Street  
Block 1102, Lots 099-101  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.

**Demolished**







1803-1807 Bethel

B-4657

1803-1807 N. Bethel St.

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

10/96

MD SAPO

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